



DHR International

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(412)255-3750 • Fax (412) 255-3751

February 9, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B201  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to encourage you and your fellow Commissioners to support the petition recently filed by WQED Pittsburgh requesting the conversion of WQEX from a non-commercial to a commercial station.

I am a long-time resident of Pittsburgh, and have been an avid supporter of WQED/WQEX over the years. The contributions that these stations have made to public broadcasting, the Pittsburgh region, and indeed the entire country have been truly remarkable. We have all benefited from their rich programming for children, public affairs, and cultural areas.

Unfortunately, those of us who are active in the Pittsburgh region are painfully aware of the financial pressures facing WQED. Their operating costs have gone up, and the competition for charitable dollars is severe. We are comforted, however, by the outstanding Board and management team guiding this Pittsburgh resource.

The plan to sell WQEX is the absolute best solution to resolving WQED's dilemma. This has been thought through carefully, and is a "Win Win" for all parties. WQED will be financially stabilized, and our community will benefit from the enthusiasm and resources of a new owner for WQEX.

Please act quickly and decisively to approve this petition. All responsible citizens in Pittsburgh are fully in support of the plan.

Sincerely,

John K. Thornburgh  
Executive Vice President  
And Managing Director

cc: Angela Campbell

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# DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

600 FORBES AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA • 15282

JAMES C. STALDER, DEAN

A.J. PALUMBO SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

JOHN F. DONAHUE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

TELEPHONE (412) 396-1850

FAX (412) 396-1848

e-mail: [stalder@duq.edu](mailto:stalder@duq.edu)

February 19, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B201  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

My wife and I have been members of WQED for many years, and I am writing to urge your support of WQED's petition to switch WQEX from a noncommercial station to a commercial station. I am convinced that this step is necessary to help ensure the future of public television in Pittsburgh.

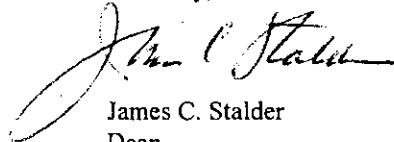
As a long-time supporter, I am proud of the many educational and cultural programs that WQED Pittsburgh offers. However, in my capacity as a long-term participant in the ongoing efforts to revitalize the economic climate in this region, I am also aware of WQED Pittsburgh's current financial plight. In years long past, the Pittsburgh community benefited from our status as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest corporate headquarters city in the Nation. It was, at such time, feasible to maintain two donor-supported stations. Today's economic realities make this impossible! The burden of supporting two stations is made all the more difficult given the costs associated with the FCC-mandated conversion to digital television, a technology that promises enhanced programming capabilities but at a very high cost.

Your decision to switch WQEX from a noncommercial to a commercial station will go a long way towards making WQED Pittsburgh economically viable. Granting the petition would enable WQED Pittsburgh to sell WQEX and, with the proceeds, pay off its debts and fund future technologies. As an added benefit, the sale of WQEX will enrich the community by adding a new commercial television station headed by a Pittsburgh native.

I am absolutely convinced that the approval of WQED Pittsburgh's petition is in the best interest of the Pittsburgh community, and I strongly urge your support for it.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



James C. Stalder  
Dean

bcc: George Hazimanolis  
Angela J. Campbell



*Saving The Places We Care About*

March 6, 2001

The Honorable John P. Murtha  
United States House of Representatives  
2423 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Jack,

As a member of WQED's Community Advisory Board, I was recently informed that WQED Pittsburgh asked the Federal Communications Commission to convert one of its stations (WQEX Channel 16) from a noncommercial station to a commercial station. I am writing to express my full support of this petition, as it will ensure the future of public television in Pittsburgh.

WQED plays an important role in our community. For more than 40 years, it has provided high quality children's, educational and public affairs programming free of charge. Currently, the station reaches over 1,000,000 households of viewers each week, more than any other Pittsburgh educational or cultural institution.

The sale of Channel 16 will also benefit the Johnstown community. WQED FM operates WQEX at 89.3 and 89.7 FM in Johnstown. The cash assets from this sale will retire WQED's long-standing debt, enable the station to invest in new programming and equipment and enrich the community by adding a new commercial television station headed by a Pittsburgh native.

I am proud to be a part of the great work this group is accomplishing and would appreciate any support and assistance you may provide with this matter.

Sincerely,



Larry J. Schweiger  
President

209 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2075

Phone: 412-288-2777 • Fax: 412-281-1792 • Email: [wpc@paconserve.org](mailto:wpc@paconserve.org) • Web site: [www.paconserve.org](http://www.paconserve.org)

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February 6, 2001

COPY

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B201  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman:

I am writing to solicit your support for WQED PITTSBURGH in its desire to be able to sell its sister station, WQEX.

Having personally supported WQED over many, many years, I feel confident in relaying to you that the vast majority of Pittsburghers would favor anything that would help and strengthen WQED. We are very proud of the role that WQED has played in the history and progress of educational television.

Frankly, most of us find it unimaginable that anyone any place would have any interest in preventing the WQEX transaction.

WQED happens to find itself in the very fortunate position to have an important asset to liquidate in order to retire long-term debt and go forward into the future.

I hope that the Federal Communications Commission, therefore, in its action will reflect the broad-base consensus among Pittsburghers that the WQEX transaction is a truly "Win-Win" proposition.

Sincerely,

Frederic B. Sargent  
Chief Executive Officer

FBS/mrd

bcc: Angela J. Campbell  
George L. Miles, Jr.

# Community College

Roy Flores, Ph.D., President  
rflores@ccac.edu  
Ph: 412.237.3040



# of Allegheny County

800 Allegheny Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233-1895  
Fax: 412.237.3037

February 2, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B201  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

WQED Pittsburgh has asked the FCC to convert one of its stations (WQEX) from a noncommercial to a commercial station. I write you to express my support as the President of the Community College of Allegheny County for the petition. It will benefit the Pittsburgh community.

I believe that this conversion will strengthen WQED, which is already a significant partner of the Community College of Allegheny in defining the educational environment of the Pittsburgh community, and introduce a new commercial station into the Pittsburgh area.

WQED is a leading provider of educational, cultural, and informational programming to all of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The sale of WQEX will provide the necessary resources to resolve the financial crisis faced by this early pioneer in educational television and permit WQED to continue to lead in the development of public television resources well into this next century.

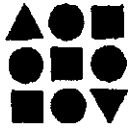
I urge you to consider that a stronger WQED will provide better service to the diverse Pittsburgh community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy Flores".

Roy Flores  
President

cc: Angela Campbell, c/o Pgh Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting and Alliance for  
Progressive Action  
George Miles, Jr., WQED



Pittsburgh Public Schools  
341 South Bellefield Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3516

John W. Thompson, Ph.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

(412) 622-3600  
Fax: (412) 622-3604  
E-mail: jthompson@pps.pgh.pa.us

January 24, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commissioner  
Room 8-A204C  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell:


WQED Pittsburgh has asked the FCC to convert one of its stations (WQEX) from a noncommercial station to a commercial station. I am writing you to express my support for the petition, because it will be good for the Pittsburgh community.

By converting WQEX and allowing its sales to a commercial broadcaster, television viewers in Pittsburgh will have more viewing choices than before and a stronger WQED which will better meet the needs of the entire community. I understand that WQED Pittsburgh hopes to sell WQEX to a company headed by Diane Sutter, a Pittsburgh native with many years of experience as a broadcaster. The addition of a new commercial station headed by an experienced Pittsburgher can only benefit the community.

At the same time, the sale of WQEX will allow WQED Pittsburgh to use the proceeds to solve its current financial crisis. Following the sale, Pittsburgh would have one strong noncommercial station instead of two weak ones. Certainly if WQED Pittsburgh is to remain a leading provider of educational, cultural and informational programming to all of southwestern Pennsylvania, it must do so from a position of strength.

When reviewing the WQED Petition, I urge you to consider that a strong WQED will be able to serve this diverse community even better than it does already. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John W. Thompson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

cc Angela Campbell



**CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING**

*A Charter Center of Quality Programming*

**Richard W. Carlson**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

June 4, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Suite 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Reed:

I want to let you know that we support allowing WQED to convert WOEX from a non-commercial to a commercial license, and we believe this action is in the best interest of public broadcasting.

Legislation is now being considered in Congress to allow other holders of two non-commercial licenses in the same market to do what WQED is seeking to do: convert one to a commercial operation with the proceeds used to support the remaining non-commercial station. All of the major public broadcasting national organizations, including the Board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, support giving similarly situated licensees the option to enter into such arrangements as long as universal signal coverage is not adversely effected.

In the case of WQED, this arrangement will help the station survive a financially difficult time while maintaining for the people in Pittsburgh the opportunity to continue to benefit from one of the premier public television stations in the country.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration as you review WQED's petition.

Sincerely,

901 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004 2037  
(202) 879-9800  
FAX: (202) 783 1020

# *Children's Television Workshop*

*One Lincoln Plaza / New York, N. Y. 10023*

May 31, 1996

DAVID V. B. BRITT

PRESIDENT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Suite 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to support WQED's application to convert its second station WQEX to a commercial license.

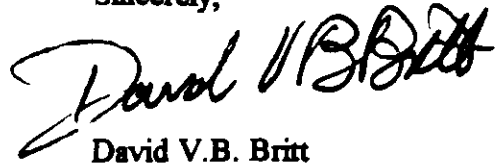
Over the years, WQED has been an important player in children's educational programming, both as a strong distribution center for Sesame Street, Ghostwriter and other programs produced by CTW as well as a producer of strong quality children's product itself, including Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, National Geographic specials, Johnson and Friends, Wonderworks, Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego, and others. The continued vitality of WQED as a production and distribution outlet for these programs to millions of Pennsylvanians on a universal, non-commercial basis is certainly in the public interest.

It is my understanding that WQED's management and its board have suggested that they may be in a position to ensure the continued financial solvency and long-term growth for WQED by allowing it to transfer its second station to a commercial licensee. With the advent of digital television and WQED's expansion toward a twenty-four hour service it seems likely that in the long run, these moves would have a positive impact toward insuring that this strong public broadcaster dedicated to quality children's programming continues to thrive.

*Direct Dial: (212) 875-6632/Fax: (212) 875-6111*

For these reasons, CTW supports WQED in its efforts for fiscal solvency and urges the FCC to support its efforts therewith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David V.B. Britt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David V.B. Britt

cc: Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner James Quello



June 13, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Chairman Hundt:

WQED received legislation that is considered to be vital to the survival of public television service for Pittsburgh, that is, the use of one of their two stations to generate funds for the continuation of the primary station's service.

Their financial situation has been well publicized across the system and many stations appreciate the difficult choices QED is having to make. Since universal service is a guiding principle for APTS' regulatory and legislative efforts I know of no station who would want to see QED enter bankruptcy and have public television service to the Pittsburgh area jeopardized.

As you know, APTS, on behalf of America's public broadcasting stations, has been working on legislation that would allow for the sale or use of a second station in a service area to support service for the remaining public station in the same area. That is a position which stations support.

Our overall goal is to maintain and improve this country's public television service. Maintaining service in Pittsburgh is consistent with this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David J. Brugger".

David J. Brugger  
President



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania  
Public Television  
Network Commission



February 9, 2001

**COPY**

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B201  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

At a meeting yesterday, the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission (PPTN), acting on behalf of the 24-person Commission, voted to support WQED Pittsburgh's petition to restore WQEX's frequency to its original commercial designation.

WQED has been a valued member of the PPTN network since its creation in 1968. In recent years, however, Channel 13 has not been as active in network affairs nor has it provided as much programming. The reason: financial problems. Although PPTN has been the conduit for some Pennsylvania tax dollars for station conversion to digital television, WQED needs another seven million dollars to fulfill its FCC-mandated conversion obligation. A financially stronger WQED will enable it to invest in programming and other new technologies which will benefit not only western Pennsylvania but the entire state because WQED is interconnected to the Pennsylvania Network.


Pennsylvania is a leader among state public television networks in converting to digital technology with all of the new service opportunities which the new technology makes possible. It is imperative that WQED have the financial capacity to broadcast digitally at the same time as the other Pennsylvania public stations so that all Pennsylvanians can receive the benefit of important content and valuable new services.

February 9, 2001

Since WQED is lagging behind other Pennsylvania stations in converting to digital, it is important that the FCC take prompt action to dereserve Channel 16 so that the remaining one strong noncommercial station can begin to fulfill its mission both to the region and to the Commonwealth.

For these reasons, the PPTN Commission urges you to support the WQED Pittsburgh petition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



H. Sheldon Parker Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer



Louis I. Pollock  
Chairman

HSPJr:LIP:bdf

cc: Angela Campbell

**From:** Kathleen Pavelko <Kathleen\_Pavelko@WITF.pbs.org>  
**To:** <mpowell@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** 2/19/01 3:06PM  
**Subject:** WQEX /Pittsburgh

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission

Mr. Chairman,

As a public broadcasting executive and Pennsylvania citizen, I am writing to express my support for the petition recently filed by WQED Pittsburgh to convert WQEX from a non-commercial to a commercial station.

The challenges faced by WQED-- in reaching financial stability, converting to digital, and managing a public service media operation--are considerable. The multi-channel capacity of WQED's main service will assure that Pittsburgh viewers will not be disadvantaged by the conversion and sale of WQEX to an experienced broadcaster and Pittsburgh native.

Public television in Pittsburgh is damaged by the continued uncertainty caused by the long delay in resolving this issue. Please show your leadership on this issue so that Pittsburgh can have a strong public service voice--rather than two marginal services struggling to survive.

Sincerely,

Kathleen

Kathleen A. Pavelko, President, WITF, Inc.  
Kathleen\_Pavelko@witf.org

WITF's media create a shared civic and cultural life for the communities of our region, connecting us to each other and to opportunities for lifelong learning.

**CC:** <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <ghaziman@wqed.org>

*Wendell G. Freeland*

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
1208 MANOR COMPLEX  
564 FORBES AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219-2986

(412) 471-5287

FAX (412) 562-5977

February 6, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B201  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I write you to urge prompt favorable action on the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to restore WQEX's frequency to its original commercial designation. I understand that such a petition is called a Dereservation Petition.

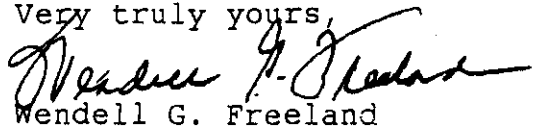
I am a resident of Pittsburgh and enjoy a great deal of public television for information, education and entertainment.

I am a small - very small - contributor to WQED Pittsburgh. I am most impressed with the effort of the management to resolve the financial problems inherited by it. I say this to point out that I was not a supporter of earlier management, particularly because of what I felt was a lack of sensitivity to the needs of the community and even more particularly to the needs of the minority communities of Pittsburgh. As a civil rights activist for the past fifty-five years, at least, I am very sensitive to the way in which public television and all television serve the minority communities as an integral part of their mission.

WQED Pittsburgh is a vital part of my community and it must have financial stability in order to continue to meet the needs of my community's future. The approval of the Dereservation Petition will go a long way to make a stronger WQED possible.

I thank you very much for your consideration of my views which I know are shared by many of my colleagues.

Very truly yours,

  
Wendell G. Freeland

WGF/cp

CC: Angela J. Campbell, Associate Director  
Institute for Public Representation

286 Jefferson Street  
Meadville, PA 16335  
November 28, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

Please consider this request for a positive ruling in favor of WQED's (Pittsburgh) petition to have WQEX (Channel 16) restored to its original designation as a commercial Pittsburgh station. I have enormous respect for WQED, one of America's premier public broadcasting operations in radio and television. I am confident that the decision by their leadership to submit this petition was made after sufficient consideration of all aspects of the request and with the best long-term interest of public television in Pittsburgh in mind.

The financial and programming challenges facing WQED are well known and documented, and sale of WQEX represents an effective and sensible way to tackle those challenges head on. Modernization of WQED's facilities, technical capabilities, and programming will be essential for the station to remain a flagship public station and for serving the Western Pennsylvania region well. Conversion to digital television capabilities alone will strain the organization beyond healthy limits without the relief provided by converting to a single-station operation. Retiring their current debt, upgrading facilities and technology, and endowing a program fund will be benefits accrued by the de-reserving of Channel 16 and its eventual sale.

The Pittsburgh region will be better served with a strong and healthy Channel 13 WQED rather than an enterprise that has continued to struggle financially for so long. Further delay will only make things worse. While I understand the visceral objections that a few in the community have registered to the idea of losing a public channel, those making the objections have offered no viable solution of their own.

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to act favorably and promptly on WQED's petition for de-reservation of WQEX. The eventual result will be a healthier educational television environment for everyone.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Cook, Ph.D.

Bcc: Angela J. Campbell, Georgetown University Law Center  
George Hazimanolis, WQED Communications Director  
Diane Sutter, Shooting Star Broadcasting

**From:** "Nancy Beck" <nbeck@sgi.net>  
**To:** <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <kmartin@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** 11/20/01 10:13AM  
**Subject:** Dereservation of WQEX

Dear Commissioners:

As a loyal watcher of WQED I urge you to dereserve WQEX which has become a burden to public television. Obviously there is not a need in Pittsburgh for two public television stations with all of the other options available. WQED does a terrific job and should not continue to be burdened with debt and requirements to spend money it does not have.

We all hoped that WQEX would be viable; it is not. We need commercial broadcasters who are sensitive to women and minorities. We do not need two television stations with annual pledge drives.

The dereservation of WQEX seems like a win-win option. Pittsburgh area get a station that pays for itself, with a fresh viewpoint - WQED gets free of debt and can continue its mission.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Flaherty Beck  
126 Abington Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

nbeck@sgi.net

**CC:** <kmartin@fcc.gov>, <ghaziman@wqed.org>, <dsutter01@AOL.COM>

February 20, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B201  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the petition filed by WQED Pittsburgh to switch WQEX from a noncommercial to a commercial station. Approval will strengthen our valued WQED in Pittsburgh.

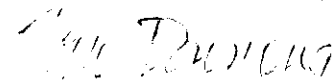
I value WQED for the programming that it offers me. WQED airs quality programming geared to the gay and lesbian audience, and has even produced local segments on gay and lesbian life and people in this region through its local show, "On Q Magazine." WQED can serve our local region better than anybody else, and I wish for them to be able to continue to provide this service.

I am a dancer and choreographer. WQED provides the best programming that showcases the arts. Again, through "On Q Magazine," bands and performers that do not have a local outlet are featured twice a week. I have seen everything from rock and jazz to rap, country, performance art, and everything in between featured on WQED, and all of it from local performers. It is important to me that WQED be able to expand on the incredible strides they have made in the last few years.

Please support this petition. WQED provides a local service that cannot be found anywhere else in this region. I do not want to see it taken away or scaled back.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Downing  
5404 Aiken Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

cc: Angela Campbell  
Institute for Public Representation  
Georgetown University

October 13, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: WQED/WQEX

Dear Ms. Salas,

Allow WQED to sell WQEX, even if it means unreserving the license.

WQED and WQEX have been broadcasting the same signal for a number of years. This means there is effectively ONE and ONLY ONE PBS TV station in Pittsburgh.

Two stations broadcasting the same signal is so stupid it makes me wonder whether the FCC hired former Soviet beaurocrats. (As does the requirement that I send you four copies of this letter. Will only four people read this letter or is it a barrier designed to reduce the volume of comments?)

I'm tired of reading about this silly issue. Let WQED sell WQEX before neither station is broadcasting anything. Besides, I already have TLC, Discovery Channel, HGTV, Travel Channel, History Channel, etc.

Times have changed. Catch up.

Sincerely,



Phil Groschwitz  
2224 Maureen Dr.  
South Park, PA 15129

cc: Steven Lerman  
Leventhal, Senter & Lerman PLLC  
2000 K Street NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006

---

**Judith Jabour** · 3822 Liberty Ave., #5 · Pittsburgh, PA 15201 · (412) 621-4998

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October 23, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Salas,

The Federal Communications Commission's denial for a change in WQEX's license is disheartening and frustrating, not to mention puzzling. This issue has been going on for years; how much more time must pass before concrete, positive action is taken? Let WQED sell WQEX, get the much needed revenue, and let WQEX proceed into the future.

For many years now, WQEX has not been running its own programming, simply miming WQED's. What is the point of having two channels with the exact same schedule? As far as the Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting's concern for noncommercial, alternative programming, Pittsburgh already has a public television station providing just that.

So what is the reason, or need, for two? How much more alternative programming is there, and that Pittsburgh can handle? Our city is still fundamentally a blue collar, shot-and-a-beer town. And where would WQEX find the necessary money for its daily living and development if WQED has to nearly sweat blood and tears in securing funding? How in heaven's name will a second, noncommercial channel fare? Or will the Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting provide the funding themselves? Perhaps through a multi-million dollar loan they can then worry about paying off (as WQED has been struggling with); or will they have their own pledge drives (WQED and WQED-FM's pledge drives are enough; the city doesn't need a third, nor can it support a third). Or will the CIPB have bake sales and garage sales to pay for employee salaries, buying/producing programs, upgrading equipment, etc.

I worked at WQED-TV for eight years. I believe absolutely in public television – its vision and quality cannot be matched anywhere else, even with the hundreds of cable channels now available. Its spirit is unique and vital and should never be allowed to disappear. But as ardently as I believe in public television, I honestly can't rationalize a city the size and style of Pittsburgh needing two.

(continues)

Page 2

Please – WQEX has a viable offer. Let the sale go through. It's time to move on.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith Jabour".

Judith Jabour

cc: Steven Lerman, Esq.  
Leventhal, Senter & Lerman PLLC  
Washington, D.C.

**From:** Arthur Greenwald <arthur@kidvid.com>  
**To:** <mpowell@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** 12/19/01 8:54PM  
**Subject:** Dereservation of Pittsburgh TV Channel 16

December 18, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

I'm writing in support of the FCC's proposed rulemaking to dereserve television channel 16 in Pittsburgh (WQEX) so the license can be transferred from its present owners -- WQED Pittsburgh to ShootingStar Broadcasting.

I have been a television producer for almost 30 years, much of that time in my native Pittsburgh where I got my start at WQED-TV and at KDKA-TV, now owned and operated by CBS. Although I reside in Los Angeles, I continue to visit Pittsburgh at least monthly to visit family and clients. As a result I am very familiar, personally and professionally, with the program choices offered to Pittsburgh viewers.

I strongly support the plan to transfer the Channel 16 license to ShootingStar Broadcasting and for several important reasons:

1. The original purpose of a second educational broadcast channel no longer exists. VCR's and DVD's have long since replaced educational broadcasting as a means of delivering programs to schools.
2. In a city the size of Pittsburgh it is financially unfeasible to create original programming for a second educational channel, especially when the parent channel (WQED) is in urgent need of capital improvements to its equipment and physical plant.
3. Despite considerable financial challenges in the past ten years, WQED has maintained an unbroken record of exemplary community service. By selling this redundant channel, WQED can finally retire its onerous debt, convert to digital production and transmission facilities, and most important, establish a local programming endowment fund.
4. The owner of ShootingStar Broadcasting, Pittsburgh native Diane Sutter, has long demonstrated her personal commitment to community service programming. Radio and television stations managed by Ms. Sutter have produced and broadcast a wide range of programming to educate, inform and motivate the audience about vital issues, and raised millions of dollars in support of numerous local charities. As a colleague (and as an exhausted former competitor!) I can attest to Ms. Sutter's tireless pursuit of inventive quality programming. Sutter has improved the public service of every market she's served. Her preliminary plans to serve her hometown are impressive, even inspirational.
5. Conversely, I have reviewed recent statements made in the press and on

the Internet by "Pittsburgh Citizens For Independent Public Broadcasting," "The Alliance for Progressive Action" and "Pittsburgh Educational Television." Each claims broad community support, but offers little or no evidence. As someone who began as a broadcasting activist, and who has occasionally criticized public broadcasting, I was saddened to discover no innovative or even constructive ideas for improving program services to Pittsburgh.

Instead these groups describe vague program concepts for which there is no demonstrated need or demand. More worrisome is the fact that the members of these groups do not appear to possess the knowledge or skills necessary to transmit a test pattern, let alone operate and program a television station. They offer no fiscal plan other than to obtain the WQEX license for FREE. Because that would cause further financial harm to WQED, this would result in a net loss of program choices and public service for Pittsburgh viewers

6. By contrast, ShootingStar proposes a broad mix of entertainment, information and public service programming with demonstrable audience appeal. Ms. Sutter has met with a wide range of Pittsburgh community, civic and business leaders and has secured strong expressions of support for her proposal and subsequent programming plans. What's more, Ms. Sutter and her colleagues have the skills and experience to create a vital programming service, and to keep it operating in an increasingly competitive market.

I'm certain that others will write to you about how this proposed rule-making impacts other important issues, such as digital conversion and related programming and community services. I would like to close by observing that it's been more than seven years since WQED first attempted to dereserve Channel 16. Although the subsequent delays were caused by well-meaning legislators and regulators, the net result was a further weakening of public broadcasting.

Despite growing hardship, WQED deserves praise for its determination and resourcefulness in maintaining and expanding its program service. ShootingStar should also be commended for its creative and practical plans to bring new programming and public services to Channel 16. Finally, I'm grateful to the current FCC for proposing this long-overdue rulemaking. I urge you to grant permission for ShootingStar to purchase Channel 16 from WQED.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Greenwald  
President  
Arthur Greenwald Productions  
4231 Goodland Ave  
Studio City, CA 91604  
(818) 505-6599  
arthur@kidvid.com

cc. Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Angela J. Campbell, Georgetown University Law Center

December 27, 2001

Commissioner George Hazimanolis  
Communications Director  
WQED  
4802 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Commissioner:

I would like to make comments about the dereserve of WQEX Channel 16 in Pittsburgh, PA.

I would like to give my support to the dereserve of WQEX to Shooting Star Broadcasting.

It is time that we concern ourselves and future generations with the health of the Public Broadcasting in Pittsburgh. The economy of today's competitive marketplace does not allow WQED and WQEX to live off of each other. With all the different programming outlets of cable, satellite and commercial TV it does make sense to have two PBS stations in the market fight for the same resources.

The granting of licenses to a non-profit organization is not an answer either. They lack resources and skills needed to keep WQEX operating at an acceptable level. I would hate to see the station go dark after the present supporter moves on to a new cause.

I believe that Shooting Star Broadcasting offers the long-term solution to WQEX problems.

The management of the company has a proven track record of success in TV Broadcasting. Their local ties are deep, and they know the people of the market.

The best long term solution for WQEX is to be dereserved and the license be granted to Shooting Star Broadcasting.

Sincerely,

*Gregory Ofiara*

Gregory Ofiara  
26 Highland  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

**From:** Kathy McCurdy <kpmccurdy@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <hfurcht@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** 3/14/01 8:00PM  
**Subject:** the steel city :)

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth,  
I am writing to urge you to support WQED in  
Pittsburgh, PA in their petition to switch WQEX from a  
noncommercial station to a commercial one.

This is very important for public television in my  
hometown, Pittsburgh. WQED rocks. They have amazing  
programs both educational and cultural. Pittsburgh  
just can't support two public TV stations. We don't  
have that kind of financial base. Please help WQED to  
continue doing a great service for the Pittsburgh  
area. If they are able to get the switch, they can  
sell WQEX and with that money, pay off debts and fund  
future technologies. Plus, my hometown will get a  
station headed by someone actually from Pittsburgh - a  
native voice! If you've ever been to the 'burgh you  
know how unique it is.

Please help!

Thank you for your time.

With best regards,

Kathy McCurdy

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<http://auctions.yahoo.com/>

**CC:** <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <ghaziman@wqed.org>

Keith H. Sueker, PE  
*Consulting Engineer*

15 February 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B201  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir,

I am writing the Commission on the matter of permission to sell station WQEX in Pittsburgh, a petition which is before the Commission as you know. I should like to inject some observations of mine on this matter and suggest your favorable consideration of the petition.

Pittsburgh has a rich cultural history and is home to a number of excellent colleges, art museums and a world class symphony orchestra. Its foundations and citizens have been generous in their support of public broadcasting through WQED, WQEX and WQED-FM. However, two factors are combining to make the future level of this support somewhat less certain. The first, I believe, is the type of programming offered by the various sections of the Arts and Entertainment cable network. This group has been able to offer the specialized programming which was once the exclusive domain of public television. Although it does an admirable job in general, A&E is ultimately beholden to its advertisers and cannot offer the entirely objective programming seen on public television. Nevertheless, I believe A&E has drawn away some support for public television.

The second factor, perhaps related to the first, is that Pittsburgh is a relatively small community with somewhat limited resources from which to draw for public television support. Prior to the advent of cable television, it was possible to maintain both WQED and WQEX to provide the specialized programs. Now, I do not believe a community of this size can support both stations. But I believe strongly that the people of Pittsburgh can and will support WQED in the future.

110 Garlow Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
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